



MACPAC
Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission



Network Adequacy and the Future of CHIP

Veronica Daher
January 22, 2015

Network Adequacy Work to Date

- MACPAC began its exploration of network adequacy for children in its June 2014 Report to Congress
- More recent work: analysis of children's health care needs, examination of federal network adequacy regulations, and convening a roundtable with experts in pediatric care and network adequacy
- Key policy issues: market conditions, specialty care, measures of access, and balancing cost with access

Network Adequacy and Children's Needs

- Network design must balance supply and demand
- The unique characteristics of children's health care needs have implications for network adequacy:
 - **Developmental change:** rapid growth and development
 - **Differential epidemiology:** rare conditions spread throughout the population
 - **Demography and dependency:** children more likely to live in poverty and come from ethnic or racial minority groups, and they depend on adults to access care

Supply and Distribution of Providers

- There is substantial geographic variation in the supply of primary care providers for children
- Office visits to pediatric specialists are growing
- Inpatient care for children with chronic conditions is increasingly concentrated in children's hospitals

Network Adequacy Oversight and Monitoring

As discussed in MACPAC's June 2014 report to Congress, network adequacy regulations are largely similar between Medicaid, CHIP, and exchange plans

- CMS Draft 2016 Letter to Issuers in the Federally Facilitated Marketplaces
- HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2016 (proposed rule)
- Office of the Inspector General report on access to care in Medicaid managed care

Key Policy Issues

- Contracting challenges
- Specialty care
- Dental care
- Balancing access, quality, and cost
- Network transparency
- Measuring and monitoring network adequacy